

of the Form PTO-1449 filed on January 24, 2000 and to indicate thereon that the cited publications were considered and made of record.

Restriction was requested under 35 USC 121 as follows:

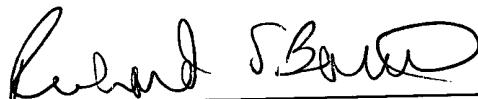
Group I : claims 1-41 drawn to a method of shaping a semisolid metal comprising crystal nuclei and to an apparatus for producing semisolid metal; and

Group II: claims 42-57 drawn to a method of shaping a semisolid metal comprising a crystal grain refiner.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1 to 41).

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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